APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:
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CIA/CO/MEAB 79-065

53/46/ DISSEM PER OPA #2 ~~SECRET~~ 23 FRP: , , , , , , ,

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TOT: 022306Z OCT 79 DIRECTOR 525343

[redacted]

MIDDLE EAST AFRIEA BRIEF CO MEAB 79-065 FOR 2 OETOBER 1979.

FROM: NFAC/OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS.

[redacted]

3. SAUDI ARABIA: RELATIONS WITH EGYPT.

[redacted]

~~SECRET~~

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//THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE SADAT'S PUBLIC CHARGES THIS WEEK THAT THE SAUDIS, IN COLLUSION WITH LIBYA, ARE TRYING TO UNSEAT PRESIDENT NUMAYRI'S REGIME IN SUDAN. THE SAUDIS HAVE RECENTLY PROVIDED ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID TO KHARTOUM, ALTHOUGH THEY PROBABLY ALSO URGED NUMAYRI TO DISTANCE SUDAN FROM EGYPT. SADAT HAS A VARIETY OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY MOTIVES FOR MAKING SUCH A CHARGE, AND HE MAY WELL BELIEVE IT. IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, HE PRESUMABLY CALCULATES THAT EGYPT'S INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED BY ATTEMPTING TO IDENTIFY THE SAUDIS PUBLICLY--TO THEIR OWN DISCOMFORT--AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH THE RADICAL ARAB REGIMES. HIGH-LEVEL SAUDIS ARE KNOWN TO HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT THEIR EXCHANGES WITH LIBYAN LEADER QADHAFI; SADAT SEEKS TO HEIGHTEN THEIR DISCOMFORT.//

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END OF MESSAGE